(c) Government of India has taken the step to encourage the fruit and vegetable industry by exempting it from excise duty.

[English]

Cruelties in Tihar Jail

5759. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reports of atrocities and cruelties on prison inmates in Tihar Jail, Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to set right the affairs of the Tihar Jail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). No complaint of atrocities and cruelties on prison inmates in Tihar Jail, has been made to the Government. There was, however, a news item captioned 'plea to stop 'tortures' in Tihar Jail' appearing in Hindustan Times in its issue of August, 4, 1991. The news item referred to a writ petition reportedly filed in the Supreme Court alleging the pushing into an oven, of a prisoner, on July 17, by the jail staff, for refusing to be a cook in the Jain kitchen. The Jain authorities have reported that the allegation is not correct. According to them, the convict, while putting chapatis into an oven, suddenly started vomitting and his leg fell into the oven thereby sustaining burns. He was provided medical aid and taken to the hospital and he has since recovered.

Re-imposition of Tractor (Distribution and Sale) Control Order, 1971

5760. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the, Government propose to re-impose the 'Tractor (Distribution and Sale) Control Order-1971,

(b) whether the dealers are charging the full cost of the tractor without deducting interest accrued on initial deposits made at the time of registration by the farmers and they are also not getting the tractor according to turn;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether there is any proposal to issue interest free of low interest loan to the poor farmers for the purchase of tractor and also without taking any security; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). On receipt of the complaints from some consumers, the tractor manufacturers have been requested to ensure that their dealers accept full payment towards the cost of tractor only against delivery.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of reply to part (d), the question does not arise.

Solidarity day in Kashmir

5761. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the battle dress parades in Kashmir Valley on the "Solidarity day" Bandh by the militants; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE N THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b). As per reports some terrorists including JKLF armed supporters observed 6th August, 1991 as "Solidarity Day" to mark the completion of one year of detention of Yasin Malik, self styled Chief Commander of JKLF. They also gave a call for hartal in the Valley.

2. The law and order situation in the Valley continues to be difficult. The Government is seized of the problem and has taken administrative measures to deal with it and to create conditions for restoration of normalcy there.

Beating of couple by Delhi Police

5762. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a case of merciles beating of a young couple and throwing of their child on the floor by the Delhi police has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken against guilty police officials; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c). A complaint was made by Smt. Anshu Saxena, resident of A-204, New Friends Colony that certain police officials of police station Badarpur and police post Sarita Vihar had abused and beaten her, her husband and her brother on 8th August, 1991. Three police officials which include the then SHO, Badarpur, the then in-charge police post Sarita Vihar and a woman constable have been placed under suspension on and departmental proceedings ordered against them. Instructions have been reiterated to the police official for courteous behaviour with the public. The supervisory officers have been enjoined upon to visit police stations regularly to ensure that there is no abuse of power by the police officials.

Seizure of Secret Documents

5763. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:
SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of top secret documents relating to security of airports in Delhi were seized on August, 10, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof and persons arrested in this regard;

(c) the number and details of the cases of seizure of such secret documents, other contrabands, narcotic drugs, etc. detected/ unearthed during last three months; and

(d) the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However a secret document regarding a meeting on airport security was seized on 31.7.91 in Delhi. A case has been registered and the matter is under investigation. No person has so far been arrested.

(c) Besides the case of seizure of secret